

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated April 27, 2006. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 9, 17, 18, 22, 23, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 41, 44, 45, 50, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58, 61, 65, 72, and 73 are amended and Claim 2 is canceled by this Response. A Request for Continued Examination is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any fees which are due.

The Office Action rejected:

- (a) Claims 1-46, 49-51 and 54-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,823,874 to Adams ("Adams") in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,978,395 to Groetchen ("Groetchen");
- (b) Claims 47 and 48 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams in view of Groetchen in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,086,066 to Takeuchi et al. ("Takeuchi"); and
- (c) Claims 52 and 53 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Adams in view of Groetchen in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,326,351 to Heywood et al. ("Heywood").

Applicants respectfully disagree with and traverse these rejections. Applicants respectfully submit there is insufficient motivation to combine Adams and Groetchen.

With regard to Claims 10, 25 and 36, the Office Action states:

Adams teaches a secondary display that is a video display." See col. 5:30-50. The reference does not describe a television, dot-matrix, cathode-ray tubes, light-emitting diode, liquid crystal, and electro-luminescent displays. Regardless, these display means are equivalents substitutable for the same purpose of displaying visual game information to a player. Thus, it would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to modify Adams, wherein the display is a video display, to substitute television, dot-matrix, cathode-ray tubes, light-emitting diode, liquid crystal, and electro-luminescent displays to display visual game information to a player.

Applicants respectfully submit that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine Adams with Groetchen and make the secondary display of such a combination be a video display, television, dot-matrix, cathode-ray tubes, light-emitting diode, liquid crystal, or electro-luminescent displays.

Further, Adams discloses a gaming device with a preferred bonus payout indicator that is clearly visible by the player and is actuatable when the reels of the slot machine stop on certain predetermined indicia. The gaming device also has a payout multiplier which displays a plurality of values by which a payout may be multiplied.

Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to change Adams based on Groetchen.

Additionally, the claims have been clarified to relate to a gaming device or method of operating a gaming device that is operable under control of a processor in communication with a server through a data, and which includes:

- (a) at least one actuator operable to move the movable member to reveal the secondary display after a designated instruction to reveal the secondary display is sent from the server to the processor (Claim 1);
- (b) the processor operable to cause said directional indicator to direct the player to said secondary display, and cause the actuator to cause the movable member to reveal said secondary display after a designated instruction to reveal the secondary display is sent from the server to the processor (Claim 18);
- (c) the processor operable to select one of said plurality of symbols, cause said secondary display device to display said selected symbol, and cause the actuator to move said first member and said second member to reveal said secondary display after a designated instruction to reveal the second display is sent from the server to the processor (Claim 32);

(d) the processor operable to cause said directional indicator to direct the player to said second display, and to cause the first motor and second motor to respectively slide said first member and said second member to reveal said masked first and second portions of the second display after a designated instruction to reveal the second display is sent from the server to the processor (Claim 44);

(e) means for moving said movable member between the closed position and the open position after a designated instruction to reveal the second display is sent from the server to the processor (Claim 57);

(f) receiving a designated instruction to reveal a secondary display sent from the server to the processor (Claim 58);

(g) receiving a designated instruction to reveal the secondary display sent from the server to the processor (Claim 66); or


(h) a first actuator operable to move the first movable member to unmask the secondary game display after a designated instruction to reveal the secondary display is sent from the server to the processor (Claim 72).

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of references relied upon by the Office Action does not teach or suggest these elements, and that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify these references to reach the presently claimed invention.

For at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 and Claims 3 to 74 are each patentably distinguished over the prior art cited and are in condition for allowance.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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